The Parent's Complaint: Cumberland County Schools NC - The Racial Tribal Injustices Against American Indian School Students. The Fight For Tribal Sovereignty Inclusion, Education, IEPs, and Equality In New Century International Middle School Continues..

The fight for racial justice and tribal sovereignty still continues in New Century International Middle School in the Cumberland County School District, Fayetteville, North Carolina with First Nations American Indian Students and tribes demanding equitable treatment, education, cultural tribal respect, acknowledgement, IEPs, and meaningful inclusion in public school education.

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Credit: A Photo of New Century International Middle School. Fayetteville, N.C. (Cumberland County Schools)

Racial tribal injustices and continued violations of tribal sovereignty are still before the First Nations American Indian and Alaska Native Students in Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The fight for racial justice and tribal sovereignty in the county school started over 50 years ago for tribal inclusion of Native American Students, but racial tribal discrimination, harassment, and threats to tribal students by the school principals still continues today in 2025 at New Century International Middle School in Fayetteville, Cumberland County Schools, North Carolina for equality, inclusion, cultural respect, and equal access to education.

In 2025, First Nations Indigenous Students have been made invisible in the public school and in the classroom where they are still being erased by the New Century International Middle School

as the First Nations Indiegnous Students continue to suffer in silence and genocide. American Indian or Alaska Native Students have been persistently exposed to harassment treatment, high levels of structural tribal discrimination, including cultural and institutional threats to remain silent and invisible in the public school.

Background

On September 22, 2025, the Principal of New Century International Middle School refused to include or to acknowledge the existence of First Nations' American Indian/Alaska Native Students in school publications. In the meeting on September 22, 2025, the Principal was very defiant to the concerns brought to her about an African American logo theme she is using to solely promote the New Century International Middle School which is a public school. The logo theme promotes a "single dedicated racial ethnicity" only as African American, which excludes and racially discriminates against the students who are First Nations American Indian Students, who are Treaty Holders, along with other races and origins identified as Caucasian, Hispanic-Latino, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Further, the Principal's refusal to change her African American logo theme for the public school, instead to a neutral logo for use, or to add Native Americans, Caucasians, Hispanic-Latino, Asians, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander to any school published document to represent to student population certainly and intentionally excludes and discriminates deliberately against the Non-African American Students and Parents. While there's nothing wrong with African American logo themes, it's inappropriate for an International Public School to promote and advertise a "one race theme" to exclude students from other national origins, and also as a form to segregate and divide students by race. It's clear that the Cumberland County School and the New Century International Middle School is discriminating against Native Americans, Caucasians, Latino, Asians, and other national origins by upholding the usage of the African American logo theme which is on all the school classrooms, address labels, tardy sheets, teacher desk name cards/plates, Student-Parent Handbooks, Welcome Back To School Flyers, letterheads, school boards, and much more.

To that end, it's not clear why the federal government is letting the Principal at New Century International Middle School and Cumberland County Schools to use federal and state funds to racial discriminate and exclude students; specifically, First Nations Native American Students. As such, according to the continued use of the logo theme, the Principal of the school thinks it's clearly okay to discriminate against students, except for African Americans Students in the school, of which some of her relations are present that she oversees as the Principal of the New Century International Middle School.

How are federal, state, and the impact aid funding Appropriations used for the New Century International Middle School in Cumberland County to discriminate, exclude and divide students; specifically, First Nations' American Indian Students? Why do the schools use Federal Impact

Aid to have the Principal at New Century International Middle School tell students they can't return back to school tomorrow to access and to receive an equal education? Does the government allow the taxes we pay, as parents, to be used to abuse our children as students in the public classroom and school system by the Principals who are racist, unethical, and abuse their authority causing horrible treatment of racial discrimination, segregation, harassment, denial of education access, and racial exclusion to 11 year olds students who are First Nations Native Americans, and Caucasians, Hispanic-Latino, Asians, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander? No, parents don't agree with the Principals at New Century International Middle School that the federal, state, impact aid funding should be used to pay for salaries of Principals in the school to victimize and harass our children in middle school who are the next generation of leaders in the United States.

A. Iron Horse, A First Nations American Indian Student at New School International Middle School, Cumberland County Schools,

Today, on October 29, 2025, because of the treatment in the school by the school administration at New Century Middle School, a Native American Student, A. Iron Horse, (*Apsáalooke/Haudenosaunee/Salish, Chippewa Cree/Umatilla)* stayed home because he was threatened by the Principal/Assistant Principal of the at New Century International Middle and the Principal stated, "he could not return back to school tomorrow because he didn't submit or have an Impact Verification Form," which denied him his civil rights, along with other students to have equal education access like his peers, and this violation is clearly racial discrimination against the child because of his age and race as American Indian. The student, A. Iron Horse is not a federal connected student pursuant to the description of the requirements of the Impact Aid. Many parents are outraged by the New Century school administration which is not diverse, but only African American. Because of the treatment their students have received since the beginning of the school countless parents are still afraid to speak up, in fear that the school principals will retaliate against their children in the public school which would cause emotional trauma for life, much like the history surrounding the Indian Boarding School, but only now, this abusive treatment, denial of education, and threats are in the New Century International Middle School in the district of Cumberland County Schools in North Carolina.

A Civil Right Complaint has been filed with the U.S. Department of Education against the School Principal Gemette McEachern and Assistant Principal Gail Kennedy for racial and age discrimination, denial of education, tribal exclusion, segregation and for violating the federal rights of Native American Students who are daily being discriminated against in New Century International Middle School in Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

On October 21, 2025, Native American Students at New Century International Middle School have reported to their parents that they, "are afraid to speak up about the African American logo theme which is all over the place in the school, which now, appears to represents the entire public school as one race and that the New Century International Middle School head administration is only dedicated to one race, which is African American because of the logo theme is continuously being used to erase us as Native American Students, along with other national origins and ethnicities in the public school too."

Native American Students have faced exclusion, divide, threats, harassment, and harmful discrimination to prohibit them to have equal education access, cultural respect, and to be heard in the public school because of the logo usage. In mid-late July of 2025, the African American logo theme which excludes Native American Students was approved by the Principal Gemette McEachern at New Century International Middle School and even when she was confronted on September 22, 2025, about the logo theme, she did nothing and has continuously ignored the request for diversity, equality, and inclusion for all students of Native Americans, Caucasians, Spanish, Asians and other students from national origins to be acknowledged in the schools publication. Similarly, the trauma of the U.S. Indian boarding school policy still lives on today in public schools in North Carolina and across the United States through lack of education inequity, racism and discrimination that Native American Students encounter within public schools; and specifically, in the New Century International Middle School.

It has been reported that childhood trauma starts at an early ages in schools which includes verbal abusive practices by teachers and principals who use tactic forms of bullying and excluding students in the public schools. As the abuse treatment continues by the Principal and Assistant Principal in the New Century International Middle School with forms of threats, practices of intimidation against students, denial of education, and also by refusing to change the logo theme to be inclusive and neutral for all students.

Ninety-two percent of Native American students attend public schools in the United States who daily experience disproportionate rates of racial-age discrimination and bias treatment by the school administrations. Teaching all students contemporary Native American issues, about tribal nations, tribal sovereignty, culture, the accomplishments of Native Americans and an accurate history of Native Americans and colonization efforts will serve to break through the invisibility and stereotypes that perpetuate bias and racism toward Native Americans in public school at New Century International Middle School.

Tribal Demographics

The New Century International Middle School has a student demographic which has many students who are American Indians, African Americans, Asian Americans, Caucasians, Latinos, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and other national origins in the school, the reason why it's called an International Public School.

Now, the New Century International Middle School is primarily in the tribal designated area of the Lumbee, Coharie, and Tuscarora Nations. Cumberland County Schools in North Carolina is also the home to many Treaty Indians who are First Nations Indigenous Native Students from over 35 federally recognized tribes from across the United States recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) through the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Native American Students who attend the New Century International Middle School derives from different federal tribal nations who are enrolled citizens from the Flathead CSKT, Little Shell Chippewa Cree, Cree, Mohawk, Oglala Lakota, Oneida, Apache, Eastern Band Cherokee, Tuscarora, and Umatilla.

Historically, the New Century International Middle School is on tribal lands which date back well over 12,000 years and linguistically belonged to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Six Nations Chiefs since the 18th Century. Today, the school land is owned by the county and surrounds an inter-social generational dominant christian culture and values of the Western civilization society which also now encumbers tribal citizens and population from different national origins.

Lack of Education Equity and Tribal Representation for Indigenous Students

On Tuesday, October 28, 2025, the New Century International Middle School Principal pulled one of the Native American Students to the side in the school and threatened him by stating, "Call your parents about the one page form called the "Impact Aid Verification" right now, and that if the form is not returned today, he could not go to school tomorrow," clearly denying equal access to education. Then, the Assistant Principal forced the Native American Student and other students to call their parents, and while calling the Assistant Principal stood there listening to each student creating fear to prevent the student from openly communicating with their parents about how they were threatened by the Principal. This threat and bullying by the Principal is not isolated incident and it's not any different from when his school teacher started to "tease and mock" his ancestral tribal last name "Iron Horse" in the beginning of the school year from August 26, 2025 through September 4, 2025 in front of other students like this abuse was okay. The First Nations Tribal Parent had to immediately go to the public school to speak with the administration of the New Century International Middle School Administration regarding the teasing and mocking by the teacher and other reported abuse. Thereafter, the abuse continued with other retaliatory discrimination behavior by the school which led to the filing of the Civil Rights Complaint with the U.S. Department of Education.

American Indian and Alaska Native Students (AI/AN) have experienced discrimination stemming from sustained attempts to erase AI/AN Students for generations. The lack of education equity and racial injustice for Indigenous Students continues in Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

For over a century and a half, the United States used the school system to assimilate Native Americans in an attempt to destroy ties with their Indigenous culture, traditions, language, tribal sovereignty, and families while making them invisible in the public schools, classrooms, and in history. Some Native American Students in the middle and high schools are denied equal access to education to assist with their education in the Cumberland County Schools, and also denied alternate education classes in the state as a form of retaliation as some school administrations have refused to provide equitable education opportunities for them to succeed.

Another area of concern for Indigenous educators is the lack of recognition of tribal sovereignty for routine decisions affecting Indigenous students. Without any recourse, School Principals in the New Century International Middle School do whatever they want to the student and abuse federal funding with no oversight. Many educators and Native Americans Students and Tribal Parents believe that the ongoing disparity in the rates of discrimination against Native American Students in Cumberland County Schools in North Carolina cause students to be “pushed out” and “abandoned” by the public instruction system, at which has caused low graduation rates, invisibility, depression, and harm among Native American Students, which reflect both intentional and unintentional racism in public schools in the Cumberland County causing a downward incline in future tribal leaders for the next seven generations.

The 2020 U.S. Census For American Indians In Cumberland County, NC

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the State of North Carolina is home to over 130,000 Native American and Alaska Natives, many who are sovereign First Nations People who are federally recognized tribal citizens acknowledged by the United States Department of Interior: Bureau of Indian Affairs, and also the home of the eight State Recognized Tribes of North Carolina.

Approximately 3.9 million Native Americans living in the U.S. have long recognized public schools and Tribal College-Universities help Native American Students succeed in schools and earn higher education degrees when tribal representation is equally present in all schools which best practices serve to cultivate the American Indian and Alaska Native Students success and tribal sovereignty through education, cultural understandings, acknowledgement, and uphold tribal identity as First Nations Indigenous People.

North Carolina has the second largest tribal population east of the Mississippi River. The tribal communities and tribal citizens of North Carolina are the foundation of the rich history of our state. In Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina, there are approximately 1,267 American Indian Students in public schools according to the North Carolina State Office of State

Budget and Management (OSBM), making up about 2.2% of the total student population in the county.

The total data for the 2020 U.S. Census for American Indian and Alaska Native Population in Cumberland County, North Carolina is 5,556 (OSBM). The Native American population in the broader Fayetteville area is over 1,936 (0.92%) as of 2025, with estimates based on census data also showing around 1,331 (1.1%) from the 2020 U.S. Census. Pursuant to the statistical data for Cumberland County Schools are set forth and follows as described herewith:

- **School-Based Numbers:** The Office of Indian Education supports roughly 1,100 Indigenous students in Cumberland County Schools, which is about 2.2% of the total nearly over 50,000 students in the county;
- **Fayetteville City Population (2025 estimate):** The Native American population is estimated at 1,936, or 0.92% of the city's population;
- **Cumberland County Population (2020 estimate):** The American Indian and Alaska Native population is estimated at 1,331, or 1.1% of the county's population.

First Nations Tribal Parents Response

First Nations tribal parents have continuously responded to the generational Native American Student abuse for decades, and now again, with the ongoing issues of students being abused, harassed, threatened, denied equal education access, and exclusion by school officials in the public schools of Cumberland County Schools in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Our tribal youth are more than just Native American Students, but blessings from the Creator, and the next seven generations of Tribal leaders. Our tribal youth, as students, have a right to have and maintain tribal sovereignty in public schools and in the classroom.

Many Tribal Parents, and non-Indigenous Parents are very concerned that the abuse of their children will continue at the New Century International Middle School. Many Caucasian parents removed their children from the school and sent them to private school to prevent their children from being verbally abused and excluded by the school officials, while some Tribal Parents, and non-Indigenous Parents don’t have the money to send their children to other schools, they continue to pray for their children in the school because “no child should be abused and excluded from equal education.”

For Native American Students, it's important to have tribal sovereignty upheld in the public schools and in classrooms; to be in school publications to reflect our tribal existence and stop genocide. Despite the presence of the Office of Indian Education and the Cumberland County Association for Indian People in Fayetteville, many federally and state recognized tribal citizens who are students in the county, still suffer in silence in the Cumberland County School system. The Office of Indian Education can only advocate but so far to stop the administration abuse and

harm to Native American Students. The fact that the abuse, threats, and harm to Native American Students in the county school system exists proves that it's not an isolated matter, and nothing is being done to prevent such misconduct by Principals and Teachers in the Cumberland County School System, but now it’s an ongoing and growing problem which has never been resolved.

Erasing the presence of First Nations Native American Students in Cumberland County Schools has been going on in the county for decades with continued discrimination and forced assimilation practices to make Native American Students and tribal communities become “invisible” which is still a problem in the public schools. The "erasure" of Native American students is an historical and ongoing systemic policies and practices within the U.S. Education School systems across the United States that have aimed to eliminate Indigenous identities in schools, languages, and cultures, and that continue to marginalize Native American students today in Cumberland County Schools in North Carolina.

No efforts have been conducted to stop the racial tribal injustices, threats, exclusion, harassment, and bias treatment in the public school against Native American Students in Cumberland County Schools; specifically, in New Century International Middle School where federally and state recognized tribal students attend.

The Law: Education and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:

Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Education’s law and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, This law prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. The Office for Civil Rights Enforces Title VI
The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces Title VI as it applies to programs or activities that receive financial assistance from ED.

The U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office for Civil Rights - OCR's mandate ensures that recipients of financial assistance from ED comply with Title VI covers pre-K through grade 12 public schools, including charter schools; state educational agencies; local educational agencies; colleges and universities, including proprietary schools and community colleges; state vocational rehabilitation agencies and their subrecipients; and other institutions that receive ED financial assistance, such as libraries, museums, and correctional institutions. The Title VI prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin against students of any religion when the discrimination.

The Superintendent District Response

On October 22, 2025, the matter of prejudice and racial discrimination matters regarding the sole designation of the logo theme with the African American to represent the New Century International Middle School was heard before the Cumberland County Superintendent Dr. Eric Bracy. The Tribal Parent and Grandparents showed nine exhibits of all the unethical logo theme

usage on school publications by the Principal of New Century International Middle School and how it was being used to exclude students who are American Indians, African Americans, Asian Americans, Caucasians, Latinos, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander except for the African American Students.

The Superintendent was also made aware of the behaviors of one specific teacher in the school who has harmed one of the Native American Students and Dr. Bracy reviewed the logo themes by the school which designated the school with a logo theme dedicated to only one racial ethnicity as African American and excluded all other races in the school. Suggestions were made to use a neutral logo theme that doesn't reflect any racial ethnicities that would exclude any student in the public school. The Superintendent Dr. Bracy said he would go to the school and speak to the Principal at New Century International School.

As of October 30, 2025, the District has not done anything about the ongoing abuse and threats by intimidation to students by the Assistant Principal and how she told certain students they could not go back to school tomorrow unless she and the school had the Impact Verification Form completed which violated the federal law by denying the students their civil rights to access equal education.

The First Nations Tribal Parent Education Advocacy serves in the best interest for all students abused by school systems and professionally writes to allow tribal parents advocacy for education for First Nations Indigenous Students and Parents' concerns to be heard pursuant to the federal law regarding the ongoing school abuse of racial tribal injustices, discriminations, bullying, threats, and tribal exclusion of tribal students in Cumberland County Schools in North Carolina.

The background education and experience of the First Nations Tribal Parent Education Advocacy is at SKC Tribal College (AIHEC-TCUs) in Montana, Tribal Management, ICWA, and Federal Indian Law at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, District of Columbia.

Professional experience at the United States Department of Agriculture: Office of Tribal Affairs, United States Department of Interior: FWS Tribal Government, and United States Department of Justice - OVW Tribal Government Indian Affairs, Washington, District of Columbia. National Office.